20th August 1925]

Benefits of Provident fund to menial subordinates in municipalities and local boards.

*221 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) why the menial subordinates employed by the municipalities and local boards in the capacity of road maistris, watchmen, peons, scavengers, etc., are not being admitted as members of the Provident fund ; and

(b) whether the Government intend or propose to revise the rules relating to the Provident fund so as to extend the benefit to the permanent menials also ?

A.—(a) The subordinates referred to are paid at market rates. If they were allowed the benefit of a Provident fund financed by the local body that employs them, their emoluments would exceed the market rate.

(b) The Government will be prepared to consider the question if desired to do so by local bodies.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Sir, as they are all servants of the local boards and as they are not getting daily wages and are permanent menials, I wish to know why the benefit of the provident fund system cannot be introduced to them."

12 noon.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" They are being paid at the market rates without the necessity of provident fund being given to them."

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—" With reference to the answer to (b), have not the Government received representations from several district boards as to the inclusion of these people within the provision regarding provident fund rules ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" If there are any such representation from the local bodies, the Government would certainly consider them."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I point out to the hon. Minister that this question affects all local bodies and irrespective of representations from this local body or the other they may themselves consider the question ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" They are servants of local bodies and it is the concern of the local bodies and the Government cannot interfere with their discretion."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" I am not suggesting that the Government should interfere. The Provident Fund rules framed at present do not enable local bodies to extend the benefit to these people. I therefore ask why the Government cannot liberalize the rules."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It can be done only on the request of the local bodies. Whether such an alteration is necessary or not it is for them to consider."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Then, am I to understand that the Government are prepared to frame separate rules applicable to different local bodies according to their desires."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" If the local bodies apply for an alteration, the Government will consider their proposals."